PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION,

WHICH

ASSEMBLED AT LEWISTOWN,

ON

Wednesday, May 6th, 1835.

HARRISBURG:

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PROCEEDINGS, &c.

The delegates elected from the different counties of the commonwealth assembled at Lewistown on Wednesday, the 6th of May, 1835.

On motion, Col. JOHN DICKEY, of Beaver, was called to the chair, and *Andrew G. Miller*, of Adams, *H. G. Rogers*, of Allegheny, and *Henry Shoemaker*, of the city of Philadelphia, were appointed Secretaries, for the purpose of organizing the convention.

Pursuant to a resolution, the counties were called in alphabetical order, and the following named delegates appeared, presented their credentials and took their seats:

Adams.—Zephaniah Herbert, A. G. Miller, Thos. McCreery.

Allegheny.—Absalom Morris, Wm. Caven, Patrick Mulvany, H. G. Rogers, Linton Rogers.

Armstrong.—Robert Robinson. Senatorial—David Reynolds.

Beaver.—John Dickey, John M. Lukens.

Bedford.—James Patton.

Berks.—Thomas Morris, Mark Darrah, Jacob Geehr, William Fisher, Lewis W. Richards.

Bradford & Tioga.—Samuel Weeks, Dr. D. L. Scott. Senatorial—Dr. Seth Salisbury.

Bucks.—Gen. S. A. Smith, David Todd, Hervey Matthias, John Comfort, Jr.

Butler.—James Potts, jr. Senatorial—Samuel A. Gilmore.

Centre & Clearfield.—Dr. Constans Curten, Col. George Hubler. Senatorial—Thomas Hemphill.

Chester.—John Morgan, Joseph Mackleduff, David Furey, Robert Cowan, Joseph Hemphill, jr.

Columbia.—John F. Derr, Col. Frederick Shirtz.

Crawford.—William McLaughlin. Senatorial—Samuel W. Magill.

Cumberland.—Charles B. Penrose, Hugh Wallace. Senatorial—George Beaver.

Dauphin.—John C. Bucher, Jacob Seal.

Delaware.—Wm. B. Sill, A. T. Dick.

Erie.—Henry Colt.

Fayette.—Joseph Williams, John Morrison. Senatorial—Samuel Cleavinger.

Franklin.—James Nill, Nicholas Baker, Jacob Heichart.

Greene.—Adam Hays.

Huntingdon.—John Scott, Henry Beaver. Senatorial—William Reed.

Juniata.—William Cox, jr.

Lancaster.—H. D. Overholtzer, Isaac Winters, E. H. Brien, John Vogan, R. R. Heitler, Anthony Carpenter, Nathaniel F. Lightner.

Lebanon.—A. W. Burns, Jacob Weidle.

Lehigh.—John Wagner, jr. John Shefferstine, Jonas Smith.

Luzerne.—Ziba Bennett, B. A. Bidlack.

Lycoming, Potter and McKean.—Col. Jonathan Smith, R. F. Carson.

Mercer.—Wm. S. Garvin.

Montgomery.—Henry Schneider, Henry Longaker, Charles D. Jones, John S. Leibert.

Mifflin.—Col. John M'Dowell.

Northampton.—Jedaiah Irish, Charles L. Eberly, Benjamin Ihrie.
Northumberland.—Lewis Dewart.
Perry.—John Junkin.
Philadelphia City.—Henry Horn, John Snyder, William J. Leiper, Frederick Stoever, Henry Shoemaker, Benjamin Mifflin, Samuel Porter, Jacob Keck, R. A. Williamson.
Philadelphia County.—John F. Stump, Benjamin Martin, John Rheiner, jr. Z. B. Zeigler, Edw. D. Martin, Charles Springer, George Gideon, C. B. F. O'-Neill, William Rice, Jr. Thomas Barnet, Franklin Vansant.
Schuylkill.—Charles Frailey, John Weaver.
Somerset & Cambria.—Robert Fletcher. Senatorial—Joseph Imhoff.
Union.—John S. Ingram, Dr. Isaac Hottenstein. Senatorial—John Cummings, jr.
Venango and Warren—Thomas S McDowell.
Westmoreland.—John Kuhns, Daniel Kistler.
Wayne & Pike.—Thomas Fuller.
Washington.—William Bryant, Jonathan D. Leet, Col. John Barr, William Waugh.
York.—Daniel Small, Samuel C. Bonham, Daniel Ahl, Adam Ebaugh.

On motion, Resolved, That a general committee for the purpose of selecting officers of the convention and preparing such business as they may deem necessary to be disposed of, consisting of one member from each congressional district, be now appointed, and that the said committee be selected by the members from each congressional district.

The meeting then adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. at which hour the delegates again assembled, when the following committee was appointed under the preceding resolution:

P. Steover, J. Snyder, Benjamin Martin, Charles Springer, Jedaiah Irish, Jas. Nill, James Patton, Isaac Winters, John Morgan, Archibald T. Dick, Geo. Beaver, Seth Salisbury, B. A. Bidlack, H. Colt, William Waugh, Daniel Kistler, Samuel C. Bonham, Samuel Cleavinger, Charles Frailey, Wm. S. Garvin, John S. Ingram, Henry Longaker, Thomas Hemphill, Lewis W. Richards, Jacob Weidle, Constans Curten, David Todd, H. G. Rogers, who reported the following persons as officers of the convention, who were thereupon unanimously elected:

JOHN C. BUCHER, of Dauphin,
President.

JOHN SCOTT, of Huntingdon,
HENRY HORN, of Philadelphia,
PATRICK MULVANY, of Allegheny,
JONATHAN SMITH, of Lycoming,
JOHN KUHNS, of Westmoreland,
LEWIS DEWART, of Northumberl.
DANIEL SMALL, of York,
JOHN JUNKINS, of Perry,
} Vice Presidents.

Andrew G. Miller, of Adams,
Z. B. Ziegler, of Phia. county,
Henry Colt, of Erie,
Charles L. Eberly, of Northampton,
Dr. Seth Salisbury, of Bradford,
} Secretaries.

On motion, Resolved, That this Convention adopt the rules of the Legislature for its government.

The following resolutions were reported, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee to consist of one delegate from each county represented in this Convention, be now appointed, who shall select a central committee, a majority of whom shall reside at Harrisburg, to superintend the general concerns of the approaching gubernatorial election, and to promote by all just means the succsess of the candidate for Governor nominated by this Convention.

Resolved, That the delegation from each county in the State, do appoint not less than thirteen active, zealous, and efficient democratic citizins, who shall act as committees of correspondence and superintendence for their respective counties, and that the said committees have power to enlarge their numbers to any extent that may be necessary and proper, to carry into effect the object of their appointment, the triumph of democratic principles in the election of the candidate for Governor nominated by this convention.

Resolved, That the delegation from the several congressional districts, report the names of twenty-eight democratic citizens as delegates from this commonwealth to the national convention at Baltimore on the 20th instant, or at such other time and place as may be agreed on by our democratic fellow citizens throughout the Union, to nominate a candidate for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States—and that the convention then proceed to the nomination of two senatorial delegates.

Resolved, That the committee created in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions, be requested to report to this convention to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The following letter from William A. Petriken, Esq. was read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes:

To Col. Jonathan Smith and Robert F. Carson, Democratic Delegates from Lcyoming county to the Democratic Convention at Lewistown.

GENTLEMEN—In reply to your letter, I answer, that I have not accepted the appointment as a delegate to the National Convention to be held at Baltimore, made by the persons who assembled on the 7th of March; and that I consider the Lewistown Convention as the legitimate organ of the democratic party of this state, and will cheerfully acquiesce in the result of their deliberations.

I am, most respectfully, your ob't servant,

WM. A. PETRIKIN.

May 4, 1835.

The following named delegates were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, expressive of the sense of the convention on subjects of general importance:—

B. A. Bidlack, H. Mathias, T. Hemphill, Wm. Caven, Sam'l. Gilmore, Geo. Beaver, Benjamin Mifflin, Benjamin Ihrie, Samuel Cleavinger.

The convention then adjourned, and met again at 6 o'clock P. M. when the committee appointed to select a central committee, made the following report, which was unanimously agreed to :—

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

John C. Bucher,	Harrisburg.
O. F. Johnson,	
Wm. D. Boas,	
George W. Crabb,	
Valentine Hummel,	
John Kelker,	
Jacob Baab.	
Benjamin Mifflin,	Philadelphia.
Richard Rush,	
John Gallagher,	Pittsburg.
Absalom Morris,	
Dr. D. Petrikin,	Danville.
James Dickson,	Lewistown.

On motion, Resolved, That this convention do now proceed to the choice of a candidate for the office of Governor of this State, and that the selection be made *viva voce*—the Secretary calling over the names, and recording the votes of the delegates, commencing in alphabetical order.

Pursuant to this resolution, the names of the delegates were called over, and 124 voted for HENRY A. MUHLENBERG, of Berks county ; when he was declared unanimously nominated as the democratic candidate for the office of Governor of this State.

On motion, a committee of nine was appointed, to draft an address to the people of Pennsylvania, consisting of Messrs. Charles B. Penrose, Sam'l. Cleavinger, John Rheiner, jr. John Dickey, Benjamin Mifflin, Ziba Bennett, Joseph Hemphill, jr. Samuel Weeks, Charles Frailey.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to notify *Henry A. Muhlenberg* of his nomination by this convention — when, Joseph Williams, John F. Stump, Gen. Sam'l. A. Smith, Dr. Seth Salisbury, and A. T. Dick, were appointed by the chair.

The Convention then adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, MAY 7.

Convention met according to adjournment.

The following letter from Mr. Morrison was received and ordered to be entered on the minutes :

To the President of the Convention now in session at Lewistown, Mifflin county:

Having been appointed, by a fraction of the convention of the 4th of March last, which met at Harrisburg on the 7th of March, after the Democratic Convention had been dissolved, a delegate to attend the National Convention to be convened at Baltimore, to represent the democracy of Pennsylvania in that

convention; and having been notified of that appointment and declined the same for reasons in my answer to the central committee of that body, as my name has gone forth to the public as a delegate from that body, I take this opportunity to say again that I consider that nomination and appointment void, as not emanating from the people, and therefore I decline acting as a delegate to the National Convention under it.

Yours respectfully, &c.

JOHN MORRISON, of Fayette.

On motion, Resolved, That the convention now proceed to recommend a candidate for President of the United States, to be supported in the National Convention.

When on calling over the names of the delegates, 124 voted for MARTIN VAN BUREN, of New York, who was therefore unanimously recommended as the candidate of Pennsylvania, to be supported by the delegates from this state in the National Convention, as the democratic candidate for President of the United States.

Mr. Bidlack, from the committee on resolutions, reported the following, which was read, considered and unanimously adopted:

When an administration forgets its dependence upon the people, and in disregard of their wishes, uses the patronage in its power to prolong its existence, it has forfeited all claim to their confidence. Such we are sorry to believe, is the case in the present instance, in relation to the administration of the state of Pennsylvania.

Gov. Wolf, and those immediately dependent upon his pleasure, distrusting the attachment of the democratic party in the commonwealth, have resorted to the desperate expedient of obtaining his renomination, independent of the free action of the people, and are now engaged in, we trust, a fruitless undertaking, to force that nomination upon them by the most odious and unworthy means. Of all the open insults to popular rights, and to the intelligence of the freemen of Pennsylvania, the 7th of March nomination was the crowning climax.

It was no less than a plain declaration to the people, that we (the Governor and his interested partizans) cannot trust you! We have now the power, which you may take from us if submitted to your decision, and we will exercise it in despite of you, and trust to the patronage in our hands to carry our points against you!!

Therefore, Resolved, That the refusal of the bank of the United States, to open its doors and its books, to the inspection of the committee of Congress, appointed to investigate its affairs, was not less offensive to the people, and contumacious of popular right, than the conduct of the 7th of March caucus; for it is a fair inference from the proceedings of that body, and the subsequent developments, that they were determined to rule by the influence of prostituted patronage, rather than by the permission of a just and intelligent community.

Resolved, That by supporting Gov. Wolf at this time, we should sanction usurpation and intrigue; but by opposing his re-election under all the circumstances, we shall but vindicate the principles of democracy.

Resolved, That the present executive of the state is well known to have been elected as the friend of General Jackson, and as one who would support the measures of the general government; but it is equally well known that Gov. Wolf has, on severel occasions opposed important measures of the general government, and shown a strong disposition to return to his first love, as is evinced by his marked preference for the federal party in some of his most important appointments.

Resolved, That upon the democratic principles of rotation in office, the present incumbent of the executive chair of this state, and his immediate dependants, should not urge his re-election, but in a spirit of high-minded independence and magnanimity, they should rally around Henry A. Muhlenberg, the candidate of the people and the party, in whose sterling integrity, firmness and ability, all can place the fullest confidence, and whose nomination by the people as if almost by acclamation, is a sure presage of his triumphant election in October next.

Resolved, That we have undiminished confidence in the firmness, integrity and patriotism of Gen. Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, and that we highly approve of the measures of his administration, and especially of his opposition to the Bank of the United States, which from its present movements, we suspect to be "preparing its screws" for the purpose of endeavoring to produce another "panic" among the people, and forcing them into a compliance with its mandates.

Resolved, That in Martin Van Buren, Vice President of the United States, we recognize the true friend of our venerable President, and the able supporter of his measures; while the abuse which he receives from the enemies of democracy only serves to increase our friendship for the man and our pride for his character, and induces us to desire his nomination for the highest office in the gift of the freemen of this happy republic, and we are firmly determined, so far as Pennsylvania is concerned, not to leave him in the hands of *pretended friends.*

Resolved, That the appointment of Presidential electors, and requiring a pledge of them to support a particular individual before his nomination by the concentrated democracy of the Union, is a clear evidence of an attempt at deception, and is an absurd effort on the part of indivibuals justly liable to suspicion, to appear zealous over much in a cause to which they are really, many of them violently opposed.

Resolved, That it be recomended to the Democratic Republicans of the state, to elect delegates to a convention to be holden on the 8th day of January next, at Harrisburg, to nominate a democratic electoral ticket, to be supported at the next ensuing Presidential election.

Resolved, That this convention cannot for a moment doubt the intelligence and patriotism of the democracy of the key-stone state; and therefore, with the utmost confidence and cheerfulness, submits to them the nominations which have been made, not at all doubting the result of their decision, but in the most flattering anticipation of

their success, and in the pleasing reflection that they have been made without the assistance of an army of official dependants.

The committee appointed to report the names of delegates to the National Cenvention, reported the following gentlemen, who were unanimously elected, after the delegates from York had assured the convention that Adam King had refused to be a candidate on the electorial ticket of the 7th of March caucus; and the delegates from Lycoming and Mercer made the same assurance as to Wm. A. Petrikin and Joel B. Curtis:

SENATORIAL DELEGATES.

John Galbraith, *of Venango*,
Adam King *of York*.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES.

Districts.

1st— William F. Stump, *Philadelphia Co.*
4d — Frederick Stoever, W. J. Leiper, } *Phila. city.*
3d — William H. Smith, *Philad. Co.*
4th—George G. Leiper, *Delaware.*
Thomas S. Bell, *Chester.*
Henry Rogers, *Lancaster.*
5th— Joel K. Mann, *Montgomery.*
6th—Richard Broadhead, Jr. *Northampton.*
7th—E. B. Hubley, *Schuylkill.*
8th—Thomas Ross, *Bucks.*
9th—John Ritter, *Berks.*
10th—Ovid F. Johnson, *Dauphin.*
11th—Henry Smyser, *York.*
12th—Zephaniah Herbert, *Adams.*
13th—Charles B. Penrose, *Cumberland.*
14th—Henry H. Fore, *Bedford.*
15th—Andrew Beaumont, *Luzerne.*
16th—William A. Petrikin, *Lycoming.*
17th—Charles Chandler, *Susquehanna.*
18th—Henry Petrikin, *Centre.*
19th—James Murry, *Westmoreland.*
20th—Henry W. Beason, *Fayette.*
21st— John Bradfield, *Washington.*
22d— H. G. Rogers, *Allegheny.*
23d— John Irwin, *Clearfield.*
24th—Joel B. Curtis, *Mercer.*
25th—P. S. V. Hamot, *Erie.*

Mr. Penrose, from the committee to prepare an address, reported the following, which was read, and unanimously adopted:

To the Democratic Republicans of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Fellow Citizens:

We, the representatives of the democratic party of the state, coming from every section, and anxiously regarding the welfare of our country, have met in convention, and discharged the important duty which you have delegated to us. We present to you the result of our deliberations, and we claim from you, as we know we shall receive, your earnest attention, while in conformity with the

immemorial usages of the party, we address you on the important interests you have at stake, in the nomination your delegates have made.

We think it a subject of congratulation and of just pride to the people, that *their* convention was so fully attended. The most unparalleled efforts were made to stifle the popular voice; the whole force of executive patronage and official influence, and every art which ingenuity could employ, have been used to prevent the assembling of the people's convention; but all in vain. The east, the west, the north, and the south, have borne testimony to the virtuous energy which inspires the hearts of freemen when they determine to resist oppression, whether it comes from a foreign or domestic source. A spirit is abroad among our citizens, showing them to be wakeful and vigilant to the preservation of their rights, and determined to maintain our republican institutions, and free them from the encroaching corruptions of power, always dangerous, and becoming daily more alarming. It is the same spirit which animated our fathers to the contest with British power; which burst the shackles of a tyrant king, and proclaimed this happy republic "free, sovereign and independent." It is the same spirit so recently manifested by you in the contest waged with the United States Bank, which sought to seduce the venal, and terrify the timid, into unconditional submission to a power fatal to the liberties of the people—the power of associated and incorporated wealth—the aristocracy of money.

We feel proud that we represent such a people, and respond to this spirit. We are convinced that spirit is among us, and that ours is the cause of freemen. We look round in this convention and we recognize among its members those who, from the days of the revolution to the present moment, have been the steady advocates of the people's rights—who have grown gray in their holy cause. If we refer to the history of our recent contests—if we dwell upon the days of panic, we shall find the names of men who manfully contended against the fearful power which threatened the liberties of the country, still faithful to the same cause, and testifying their fidelity by coming into this convention to preserve the fruits of a victory achieved by the people, but which remain to be secured against the insidious efforts which the same Bank is still making to obtain the ascendency over us.

We do not, fellow citizens, approach you under ordinary circumstances; but we know, and you are no doubt convinced, that the occasion, with its attending incidents, is one of immense importance to the cause of popular rights, and that all your best efforts will be required to preserve them. We repeat the language of the distinguished Benton, "the Bank of the United States is not dead;" she exists in all the vigor of concentrated wealth—in all the pride of wounded aristocracy, envenomed by the consciousness that her mighty efforts have been resisted and defeated by a virtuous, and as yet free people. You drove her from the field, but her armies have merely changed their position. She has tried the lion skin—she now puts on that of the wily fox. She affects to have given over the contest; she ceases her cry of panic and confusion, of ruin and devastation, and she proclaims by the tongue of her most eloquent advocate, that "the Bank is the creature of yesterday, and expires to-morrow." In the meantime she expands her accommodations, although in the season of panic she oppressed the people, and told them she was obligedto do so because the Congress of the United States refused to extend her existence, and she must contract her business; yet now, in the last year of her existence, she increases her discounts until they are again swollen to the enormous sum of nearly SEVENTY MILLIONS!

The Bank is still alive; she is again in the field, and you are in the presence of a formidable enemy. We deplore, that in these circumstances, there should exist any division, or cause of division among us; but it cannot be disguised that an unparalleled attempt has been made to divide the democratic party. If there be treason in your camp, we ask you who are the traitors? Look at the list of this convention—Do you find it swollen with the names of the panic makers? Candor must admit that they are not here. Do you not on the contrary, see in this convention those who in the darkest hour of the Bank conflict, never quailed beneath her power, but battled manfully for your dearest rights, and gave evidence that they were with you, no matter who was then against you?

Can you, will you believe that treason exists among those who stood by your venerated President, Andrew Jackson, when the fight was the thickest, and in the darkest hour of the Bank contest, and among those, who for their fidelity to you, have been denounced, and are still denounced, by the Bank presses, in terms of the utmost bitterness; or will you not, fellow citizens, rather look for those who are now trying to defeat the democratic party among men who trembled in the hour of peril, who sought refuge in flight, or in the ranks of the enemy, united in the cry of the panic makers?

Let us however approach this question more nearly. The convention of the 4th of March met at Harrisburg, numerous difficulties occurred which we have not time to recapitulate; these difficulties, produced unparalleled excitement in that body, heightened by the strange and unusual fact that the convention was surrounded by a host of dependants, who came from our canals, our rail roads, and our counties, certainly to perform no known or official duty. After a stormy session of three days, when thinking and reflecting men, having various personal preferences, had given up all hope of harmonious action, by which alone success for the nomination to be made could be secured, a resolution was adopted by a vote of fifty-two to forty-one disolving the convention, and recommending the election of a new convention to meet at Lewistown on the 6th of May, then next, to nominate a candidatte, &c. The place for the assembling of this convention was fixed by a vote almost unanimous, and then the members of the convention *quietly dispersed.*

Those facts cannot be denied; they are not denied. On the night after the convention was disolved, a caucus was held by a portion of those who had been members, lead on by a bold politician of Philadelphia, who was not a delegate to the convention; and that caucus determined that they would meet the next day and nominate Gov. Wolf. They did meet the next day—the delegates from a very large portion of the state having gone home—and without having received any fresh authority from the people, they boldly nominated Gov. Wolf and claimed for this transaction that it was according to the ancient usages of the party. We ask you if the recollection of any man can furnish an instance such as this in the history of the party?—Where do they find the precedent for it, and how can they say it was according to the usages of the party, when no instance like it can be produced? Again, you hear the band of office-holders (we do not mean all, for there are many honorable exceptions,) who have adopted the new and degrading doctrine that they owe to the Governor who appoints them, personal allegiance, denounce those who will not acquiesce in this caucus nomination as disorganizers. To whom does this name properly belong? Will you say that it belongs to those who voted for the dissolution, who confided in the people, and who by that vote determined nothing for or against any man, whose pretensions for office would be left open to be weighed by the people?

We ask you to consider what would have been the present condition of the party, if the caucus of the 7th of March, numbering but eighty-five, professing to represent a part only of the commonwealth, had never assembled? Would any division or cause of division exist among you? Would a single wave of trouble roll across the breast of the party? Is it not very plain, that, if this caucus had not met, no portion of the party would have been deluded? And the nomination made by this convention, would have been the only nomination, claiming to be democratic, before the people? Who then are the disorganizers? We ask you, if this name belongs to any, does it not belong more appropriately to those who made the irregular nomination of George Wolf at the caucus of the 7th of March?

It is not denied, that this caucus assembled without any fresh authority from the people. It is equally true, that it assembled without any adjournment from the 6th of March. No man, with truth, can deny this. Had, then, this portion of those who had been members of the convention, a right to assemble on Saturday, after the convention had dissolved? If they had a right to assemble *then*, they had a right to assemble one month or three months afterwards? And will any pretend to this? If they had a right to assemble, then also had that proportion of the same convention who retired, and went home, an equal right. If they had this equal right, and it cannot be denied to them—and if they had

exercised it, and nominated another man, we should have had two persons nominated by democratic conventions, each of whom might claim, with the same propriety, to be regularly nominated, and according to democratic usages. Don't this show you, that it is absurd to claim for the nomination of Gov. Wolf, by the caucus of eighty-five, the binding validity of a regular nomination?

But again, if the democratic party had acquiesced in this unauthorized nomination, would it not soon become a dangerous precedent? We know, that by our present constitution, very large powers are conferred upon the Governor. He appoints to almost all the offices in the State. Sustain this nomination, admit it to be regular, and do you not at once make your democratic convention an idle ceremony, whenever an incumbent of the executive chair chooses to be a candidate. Who can doubt, that with this immense patronage in his hands, more especially if along with this nomination, we have the doctrine established that the Governor confers office, not as the agent of the people, but as a personal favor binding the office holder to personal allegiance to the man, and not to the party, we say who can doubt that a Governor can always get a sufficient number of men, who would give him an irregular nomination of some sort? Sustain, then, the caucus nomination, and the people need never again suppose that they can, or will have any thing to do with nominating a candidate for the office of Governor. It may as well be considered, that the Governor, for the time being, shall be the candidate, and the only candidate of the democratic party, and that the people have no right to interfere. And will democrats submit to this degradation? Are they who profess the principles of Jackson and Jefferson, willing thus to yield their rights? We think it almost an insult to put this question, and we answer for you,—No. The democracy of Pennsylvania will never submit to such usurpation.

But do you wish to elect your candidate? Do you desire to preserve your liberties from the grasp and shackles of the U. S. Bank, or are you satisfied with the empty vanity of nominating, with no hope of electing the man nominated?

Can any reasonable man expect to re-elect Gov. Wolf upon this nomination? We are aware, that his friends, conscious of the weakness of his pretensions to the support of the democratic party upon such a nomination, have discovered an evident inclination to form a coalition with another party, and rely for support upon that party. It must be plain that such a coalition can only be effected by deception, or the sacrifice of principle? Can you have better evidence of the danger of such a nomination than their overtures furnish? But it is vain too, to hope that such a coalition can be effected—for it is not to be supposed that an honorable man would at all confide in the individual who was willing to place himself in a position so equivocal. Professing the principles of all, he can be faithful to none.

That Gov. Wolf cannot obtain the support of the democratic party, and that this party cannot, and will not, support his unauthorized nomination, is proved by the evidence which this convention affords. How, then, can he be re-elected? Do you not remember that at the last election, he was elected by a meagre majority of a little upwards of 3000, and that for many days after it took place, and before the final result was known, it was generally supposed that he had been defeated. Some of the strongest democratic counties in the state, had given majorities against him. Do you not remember with what effect the extravagance of his administration was exhibited? The prodigality and waste of public money which he himself had charged upon the administration of his predecessor, was urged against him. Do his friends suppose that this argument has lost any of its force, in view of the increase of our State debt to the large sum of twenty three millions of dollars? It is true, that all agree that our magnificent lines of internal communication, should be made productive. But will the people the less condemn wanton extravagance, or will they the less desire to work a reform, and produce economy in the administration of our public affairs? Do we not every where hear the desire expressed, to reduce the expenditures of our government, and relieve the people from the heavy burdens not necessary to the fullest development of our immense internal resources?

A vain attempt has been made to make up an issue between knowledge and ignorance, and place the pretensions of Gov. Wolf on the ground that his "banner streams in light;" and that the individual by whom he is opposed, mus be the candidate of ignorance. No man who feels as a Pennsylvanian, who ha

a proper pride in his native or adopted state, would join in the slander which demagogues have elsewhere urged, that the people of Pennsylvania are ignorant and narrow minded. Let an intelligent observer cast his eye upon the magnificent state of improvements, physical and moral, which prevails every where in Pennsylvania—let him compare her condition with that of any other state in the Union, and he cannot but admit, that we have within our borders the most splendid evidence, that the people of Pennsylvania are a great people. Will any man among you, then, believe that a candidate could be presented to you, and your suffrages claimed for him, on the ground that he is the candidate of ignorance? Such a supposition is an insult to the people of Pennsylvania; and we cannot use language strong enough to convey our condemnation of it. True it is, that men may honestly differ as to the policy or expediency of particular acts of legislation, to promote the diffusion of knowledge. They may consider one unequal, unjust and oppressive, and another fair and right; but all agree, that we are bound to advance and maintain our high character for moral and physical improvement.

The official patronage of our chief executive officer is admitted on all hands to be very great, and there are not wanting men who condemn this great power. Democrats know that it was one of the lessons of wisdom taught by the patriarch of democracy, Thomas Jefferson, that there should be frequent changes of the incumbents of executive office. He himself set a noble example of adherence to this principle; he retired at the end of two terms. His precept and example should be cherished and observed. Men who have been long in power are apt to become attached to that power and to forget right. They forget that it was conferred by the people, and too often desire to retain it by corrupt means, and without the popular consent.

Democrats, you know it is your principle to guard against this encroachment of power, and hence you have been ever in favor of rotation in office. Every body knows that there is a great mass of the community who are utterly opposed to electing the same individual to the office of Governor for more than two terms. Could that portion of the democracy of our state be induced again to cast their suffrages for George Wolf? Certainly not. Weigh all these considerations and remember the meagre majority by which Gov. Wolf was elected for a second term, and you will be convinced of what we, having opportunities of information from every part of the state, tell you is certainly true, that Governor Wolf under no circumstances can be re-elected for a third term—much less can he be elected upon such a nomination as he has received—a nomination regarded by the great mass of the party as an outrage upon their rights.

Will any of you then, fellow citizens, throw your votes away? Will you not rather rally to the standard of democracy now when its safety is exposed to danger, and cast your votes for a man whom you all know, and against whom no democrat can find a reasonable objection? Can we, ought we to divide; is there any cause of division among us? Believe us, fellow citizens, we tell you in the soberness of truth, that we feel, warmly feel for every democrat, and we would not that one man should go astray, or be remembered or deplored as one whose vote might have saved our long cherished principles and party from destruction.

We have nominated by a unanimous vote HENRY A. MUHLENBERG, of Berks county, to be the democratic candidate for the office of Governor at the next general election, and we feel bold to say that no man in the commonwealth could be selected in whom the democracy of the state can more safely confide. He inherits from revolutionary sires the spirit which animated that glorious struggle — ardently attached to our republican institutions, he has not hesitated to devote his best energies to maintain them. Open and candid in his disposition, he disdains equivocation or mystery. Professing the democratic creed of the Jefferson school, he has never refused to bear his testimony to its truth and excellence, and his practice has conformed to his principles. He meets with a manly firmness every question, and brings to its discussion the energies of a strong mind, cultivated by a finished education, and improved by long experience. Benevolent in his disposition, and disregarding the idle and vain distinctions of wealth and power, he has ever had the esteem and affection of all around him. In his own district, where he has been again and again placed in nomination by the people for the important

office of member of Congress, which he now holds, he has reeceivd overwhelming majorities, proving incontestibly how much he is beloved and respected for his private and public virtues by his neighbors, those who best know him. His public career in the councils of the nation has been one of no obscurity. In Congress he has been conspicuous. Coming into public life at a time of great interest to our country, he has been distinguished for his fearless patriotism, his unshaken, calm and intelligent intrepidity.

In the midst of the panic he was immoveable; no arts could entice, no personal interest swerve him from his duty to his country; he stood by the measures of our virtuous chief magistrate. In the House of Representatives of the United States, Henry A. Muhlenberg was the steady champion of the people's President, Andrew Jackson, and the open, avowed, honorable and indepent opponent of the United States Bank. He called the previous question for the people against the Bank, and the people will not forget his patriotic devotion to their interests.

An attempt was made to introduce into the administration of the affairs of the general government a spirit of extravagance neither sanctioned by reason, nor the constitution. In the seductive form of appropriations for local improvements, this spirit presented itself; and those who have urged that a national debt was a national blessing, were ready to encourage a cupidity which would have bankrupted the nation, and entwined the people in chains of gold. Our patriot President resisted this dangerous spirit; the hand of waste and unconstitutional extravagance was stayed, and in this way we have been permitted to exhibit the singular spectacle of a great and prosperous nation without a dollar of national debt. In this contest Mr. Muhlenberg was again conspicuous; he resisted this spirit of extravagance manfully and nobly.

An effort has been made to create the impression that Mr. Muhlenberg will be opposed to some of the great interests of the state—that he will resist its steady advance to prosperity and greatness. He has all the pride of a Pennsylvanian; he loves his native state; he feels a deep interest in her welfare, and we feel the fullest assurance that with him, the prosperity of our state will be, as it has been, the object of constant solicitude. Venal corruption, and wanton extravagance lavished upon favorites, can hope for or expect no encouragement from him; but that he should labor assidiously to render productive every interest; to extend and magnify them, is altogether consistent with his own character for intelligence, firmness and integrity, and no one need fear his administration of the government on these points.

Such, then, is the man presented for your support, and we feel convinced that he will fully repay your confidence, and meet your just wishes. We all know and appreciate his merits, and we have no fears for the result. He is the people's candidate, and the people will sustain him. The most cheering intelligence on this point has been collected from all parts of the state, and we shall go into the contest with the fullest assurance, not only that we ought to succeed, but that we will succeed. But one thing is certain, that no other candidate professing to be democratic, has the remotest chance of success. We do then invite and solemnly and affectionately urge you to union and united action, remembering that victory in the approaching election is all important to preserve your party, and perhaps your political rights.

We have selected delegates to a National Convention to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, to be supported at the next Presidential election. It is so plain that this measure is essential to the union of the democratic party of the different states; so essential to counteract the dangerous tendency to sectional parties which prevail in our country; so essential to success in the Presidential election, that it is no longer necessary to sustain this measure by argument. We shall be bound, of course, by the decision of that body, but we have not hesitated to declare the unbought preference of the democracy of Pennsylvania.

MARTIN VAN BUREN, the distinguished son of a sister State, has risen by his own unaided efforts to the eminent station which he now fills. Passing through the ordeal of many conflicts, tried in various stations by his fellow citizens, he has never been found wanting to their interests. Possessing commanding talents, consummate abilities, and varied experience, he has been long

trained in public life; and every man is now free to admit, that as a statesman, he is unsurpassed in sagacity; and every democrat must concede, that as a politician, none can be more decidedly devoted to democracy. That he has been persecuted with bitterness for his political course—for the identity of his principles with those of President Jackson—has but endeared him to the democracy of Pennsylvania—and we present him as her favorite candidate for the Presidency, to the national convention; willing, however, to yield a cheerful submission to the decision of that body.

We have not been unmindful of the claims of Pennsylvania upon her sister states; but at the present juncture, when we have so much at stake, we have felt it to be incumbent upon her, to exhibit a disinterestedness consistent with the character for patriotism she has always maintained. In doing this, however, her sister states must, and no doubt will remember, that the day must soon arrive, when a proper regard for the steady and honorable character of her people, will and must demand, that their feelings should be gratified by a signal mark of confidence, conferred by her sister states, on one of her own sons.

We have thus, fellow citizens, performed our duty—it remains for you to perform yours. Conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we are unawed by the arrogance of power and place, and we disdain the low revilings of desperate men—we are satisfied that we are right, and in this conviction we feel that you will be true to yourselves and true to the cause of the people.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the delegates to the National convention be instructed to support the nomination of Martin Van Buren for President of the United States.

Resolved, That we have full confidence in the integrity of the delegates to the National Convention, and therefore do not instruct them as to the candidate for the Vice Presidency, but expect they will unite upon such candidate as will be most acceptable to the people and most consistent with the principles of the democratic party.

Resolved, That this convention pledge themselves to support Henry A. Muhlenberg, of Berks county, as the democratic candidate for the office of Governor of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the next general election, and use all honorable means to promote and secure his election.

Resolved, That the delegates to the National Convention be furnished respectively with certificates of their election under the signatures of the officers of this convention, together with any instructions or recommendations that may have been passed by the same, in reference to their duties at the said national convention, and that the delegations from the respective districts have power to fill any vacancies that may occur therein, by resignation, refusal to obey instructions or otherwise and that the delegates, when assembled at Baltimore, ascertain whether any vacancies exist, and that they have power to fill the same.

Resolved, That the central committee at Harrisburg be requested to assist the secretaries in preparing the journal of this convention for publication in pamphlet form, and to superintend the circulation of the same throughout the state.

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be returned to the President, Vice Presidents and Secretaries thereof, for the able and faithful manner in which they have conducted the business.

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be tendered to the commissioners of this county, and through them to the people of the place, for their polite attention on this occasion.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the officers and published in all the democratic papers in the state.

After making the necessary arrangements for the payment of expenses, the convention adjourned, *sine die.*

JOHN C. BUCHER, President.

JOHN SCOTT,
HENRY HORN,
PATRICK MULVANY,
JONATHAN SMITH,
JOHN KUHNS,
LEWIS DEWART,
DANIEL SMALL,
JOHN JUNKIN,
} Vice Presidents.

A. G. MILLER,
HENRY COLT,
Z. B. ZIEGLER.
C. L. EBERLE,
SETH SALISBURY,
} Secretaries.

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